

Dates for your diary

Recycle Week: 14th - 20th October. Keep an eye out for our reflective publications as we celebrate all things recyclable with the nursery's mindful approach to our thought-provoking, imagination-fuelled provision.

Autumn half-term: **Term-time only** children break-up on **Friday 25th October** and return **Monday 4th November**.

We will be holding our Christmas celebrations on Wednesday 18th December and Monday 20th December from 9:30 – 11am. Invitations to follow.

Consett Christmas Tree Festival: 28th November 6pm – 1st December 7pm at Christ Church, Consett – Following our 1st place victory in 2023, we will be entering a nursery tree again this year.

Christmas holidays: **Term-time only** children break-up on **Friday 20th December** and return **Monday 6th January 2025**.

Christmas closure: Nursery will close at **12:30pm on Christmas Eve** and reopen on **Thursday 2nd January 2025**.

Reminders

If you would like your child to have breakfast at nursery, please drop them off by 8:25am.

We kindly ask that you provide a labelled water bottle for your child each day. Due to government recommendations for oral health, we can only allow children to have water in their bottles.

Please ensure all of your children's belongings are clearly labelled, including water bottles, clothing and shoes. Many children have the same items in the same sizes and labels prevent mix-ups occurring, particularly as children become more independent and remove their own clothing.

During the colder months your child may be wearing wellington boots or bulky footwear. You are welcome to provide some slippers or indoor shoes for their comfort during play.

With colder weather approaching some children are prone to cracked lips and such like. Moisturising creams, lip balms and the like do not need to be prescribed however, they must be unopened, clearly labelled with your child's name and passed over to a member of the team.

If you require assistance during drop-offs / collections, please let a member of the team know and we would be happy to help.

Firstly, we would like to offer a very warm welcome to all of our new children and families. It has been wonderful getting to know all of our new children and seeing new friendships forming. At this time of year, the social dynamics in *The Bridges* alters, as many children move on to primary school, we see many of our children experiencing a growth in confidence and maturity as they become the older, more experienced members of the group. We look forward to our adventures in the coming months.

The curriculum in *The Bridges* centres heavily around the concept of supporting our children to become 'School ready'. This term is often linked to academia however, we strongly believe that true school readiness is about children being confident, capable and independent, able to direct their own learning and tend to their own, basic self-care needs. Therefore, we bring great focus to nurturing children's intrinsic motivation for becoming self-sufficient, encouraging the development of skills including dressing and toileting. In line with promoting independence, you may have noted some changes within the environment.

Recently, you may have noticed the children going on local outings to help them develop their environmental observations and understanding. These outings offer a great chance for deeper learning, enriched with a varied vocabulary that arises from closely observing wildlife and plants. The children were very keen to learn more and asked many questions to expand and reinforce their knowledge about the world around them. In the future, we plan to take full advantage of the countless learning opportunities that nature offers in our local area. During these outings, we will observe seasonal changes and increase the length of our journeys to enhance the experience, with the ultimate aim of inviting parents or family members to join us on our adventures should they wish.

As you are aware, we transitioned to our new parent sharing platform 'Family' from 1st September. We would like to extend our thanks for your patience during this transitional period and hope your experience of the app so far has been a positive one and any feedback is very welcome. As with ParentZone, you are able to share photographs of your children's out of nursery experiences with us. All photographs from home continue to provoke a lot of interest amongst the children and spark lots of conversations. This proves to be an effective tool in building language and recall skills, as well as supporting children to feel secure in the nursery environment – a fundamental requirement in learning. If you would like to share photographs with us, you can do so by going to 'Journey' on the app and clicking 'New observation'.

To assist our busy families, we are introducing tea and coffee facilities, and snacks in our reception for parents and carers to enjoy at their convenience. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact, so all cups, lids, and coffee pods are recyclable. Although we provide cups, we recommend bringing your own reusable travel mugs. (Cow's milk is available, but if you need a different type of milk, please let a team member know).

Sustainability

At Shotley Bridge Nursery School, we are committed to teaching our children about sustainable practices. Our goal is to instil positive attitudes and values towards sustainability by exploring solutions to environmental issues, gaining an understanding of the world, and observing adults practicing sustainability (for further details on our sustainability approach, please refer to our attached policy or speak to a member of the team). To support our sustainability efforts, we are inviting our SBNS friends and families to participate in a parent partnership nursery project. We invite you to join us in creating Eco-Bricks, which are blocks made from compacted plastic waste. Plastic poses a significant threat to our planet, but through Eco-Bricks, we can repurpose this material for eco-friendly solutions. Eco-Bricks are plastic bottles filled with used plastic, creating reusable building blocks that help sequester plastic. By making Eco-Bricks, we can prevent plastic pollution and avoid the negative consequences of industrial processing. Furthermore, Eco-Bricks can be used locally to construct various environmentally friendly structures. Our aim is to collect plastic bottles of different sizes filled with household plastic waste, with your support, for a nursery project (project updates to follow). A collection point for your Eco-bricks can be found in our reception, with further information on how to make your brick attached.

In order to reduce the plastic wastage of using nappy sacks for wet and soiled clothing, we will be providing a re-usable wet bag for every child. We kindly ask that you ensure this is in your child's bag for use every nursery session.

As a nursery, we highly value our partnership with parents and welcome all reflections, questions, and suggestions. This includes feedback on our sustainability approach, projects, or daily practices. Please feel free to get in touch with us - we appreciate all correspondence.

Thank you for your continued support, Ms Thornton and The Bridges Team.